

2. OXYURUS MASAFUERÆ.
3. CINCLODES FUSCUS.
4. EUSTEPHANUS LEYBOLDI, Gould.
5. BUTEO ERYTHRONOTUS.

But not having been there I cannot affirm that other species do not occur.

I believe the Buzzard has been attracted by and feeds on the domestic cats with which the island swarms. These cats having been introduced by former settlers, have increased and multiplied amazingly: they have taken to the bush, eaten up all the goats, and now live upon fish and young seals, and in their turn furnish food to the *Buteo*.

VIII.—Notes on some European and Asiatic Eagles.

By W. EDWIN BROOKS, C.E., Dinapore.

My friend the Rev. Dr. Tristram has lent me an African example of *Aquila navioides*, Cuv., in characteristic tawny plumage, upon which I wish to offer a few remarks.

1. It is totally distinct from the Indian species which has hitherto borne that name. The references to this Indian species in 'The Ibis' are:—July 1868, pp. 351, 352; April 1870, p. 290; July 1870, p. 423; April 1871, p. 245; October 1871, p. 479; and October 1872, pp. 472, 473. It is also described in Mr. Hume's 'Rough Notes,' p. 168, as the young of *Aquila navia*.

2. *Aquila navioides* is not a round-nostrilled Marsh-Eagle, like the Indian bird and like the other two Marsh-Eagles, *A. navia* and *A. hastata*, but is a long-nostrilled Eagle, with vertical nostrils, like *A. vindhiana*, *A. bifasciata*, and *A. mogilnik*.

3. Its tail is a greyish barred one, like that of *A. vindhiana*; and altogether its affinities are with this last-named species; but its mode of coloration is distinct, and very much more handsome in every way. In the tawny stage it has even a more distinct black eyebrow than the Indian species called

by the same name. The tawny colour, both on head and whole body, is peculiarly rich and fine; and out of the numbers of *A. vindhiana* I have obtained in a *pale* tawny stage, not one approached this fine species in coloration. It has its characteristics, and especially the two-coloured feathers about the shoulders and wings, the two colours being fine dark purple-brown and fulvous or tawny. I now see there was some excuse for Mr. Gurney mistaking a mature *A. bifasciata* (*A. orientalis*, Cab.) for a dark *A. navioides* (*vide* Ibis, 1870, pp. 67, 68). This fine Eagle (*A. navioides*) is in many respects like *A. vindhiana*; and as that species is subject to light and dark forms, it is probable that the same variation exists in *A. navioides*. To separate a large dark *A. navioides* from an undersized dark and mature *A. bifasciata* would be no easy task; but I think no mistake need be made, the characteristics of each being so well defined.

4. The Indian species hitherto called *A. navioides* agrees well with the plate of *Aquila fulvescens* in Gray and Hardwicke's 'Illustrations of Indian Zoology' (i. pl. 29). So well is the plate executed, that there is no mistaking the species it is intended to represent. Our Indian bird should therefore be henceforth known as *Aquila fulvescens*, Gray; and I am glad to have been able to separate it from *Aquila navioides vera*, with which it has been confounded.

Judging from the example sent me, I do not see that *Aquila navioides* is a more robust bird or larger on the whole than our Wokhal (*A. vindhiana*). Its wing is 20 inches only, and the talons are not more powerful. The Indian bird varies excessively in size; and in Mr. Hume's collection there are some magnificent examples which it would be hard to match with African ones of *A. navioides*.

We have thus three very distinct Eagles subject to light and dark forms:—

1. *A. fulvescens*, Gray. Characters—round nostril and plain black unbarred tail.

2. *A. vindhiana*, Franklin. Characters—vertical long nostril and well-barred grey tail.

3. *A. navioides*, Cuvier. Characters—vertical long nostril

and barred grey tail. From No. 1 it is easily separated by its structural difference in form of nostril, and by its barred tail; and from No. 2 its rich colours and the strong tendency to particoloured feathers sufficiently distinguish it. This particoloured plumage partakes rather of the character of the spotting upon the mantle of juvenile *Aquila nœvia* in the example sent me. The two-coloured feathers, however, are, I understand, not constant.

We have no record of the occurrence of the Indian *A. fulvescens* in Europe; nor have I ever seen an Indian-killed *A. nœvioides*. I was much pleased to see the last species and to observe its affinity to *A. vindhiana*; and yet its complete distinctness is most striking.

In our references to *A. nœvioides*, Mr. Gurney and I have been playing at cross purposes, he having in view the true *A. nœvioides*, while I was thinking of the Indian species so misnamed.

I recently identified *A. orientalis*, Cab. (misnamed *A. clanga* by dealers) with *A. bifasciata*, Gray and Hardwick. To this Mr. Gurney objects, on account of the former's smaller average size and darker colour. His series consisted of about half a dozen of each. I have examined again my series of each most carefully, and with the addition of the measurements of two *A. orientalis* in the Norwich museum. I was able to take three males and three females of each species; and I find the average of the wings to be—*A. orientalis* 21·5, and *A. bifasciata* 21·541, or practically no difference as regards size; and in respect to colour I find as dark a brown in some of my mature *A. bifasciata* as in the very fine old Bosphorus example of *A. orientalis* (*vide* Ibis, 1870, pp. 67, 68). But neither size nor colour is a criterion when Eagles are in question, but characteristics only. They vary excessively in size; and the Indian climate affects their colour to such an extent that I have seen the same species, *Aquila nœvia*, nearly black when newly moulted, and a pale sandy bird after a few months' exposure. But it is not always time which produces paleness: the colour of some examples is *fast*, while that of others is the opposite.

The result of my reexamination was my entire conviction of the identity of *Aquila orientalis* and *Aquila bifasciata*. There are several peculiarities connected with the lining of the wing which the younger birds of *Aquila orientalis* and *Aquila bifasciata* have in common. These little coincidences were striking.

Another identification I made was that of *Aquila hastata*, Lesson, with the North German or Pomeranian small spotted Eagle. This point Messrs. Gurney and Dresser are endeavouring to work out. I was, however, quite convinced of the identity of a Danzig-killed mature bird with our *Aquila hastata* in the same plumage.

IX.—*Description of an apparently new Species of Bird belonging to the Family Trochilidæ, of the Genus Eucephala.* By D. G. ELLIOT, F.L.S., F.Z.S., &c.

THE genus *Eucephala* is composed of eight or nine species, excluding the one about to be described; and as only three are at all common or usually met with in collections, it is one of the least known or understood among those comprising the great family Trochilidæ. All the species have a resemblance more or less great to each other, their plumage presenting the two colours green and blue in different degrees of brilliancy and extent. With the exception of *Eucephala grayi*, *E. smaragdo-cærulea*, *E. cærulea*, and *E. cyanogenys*, the species are as yet represented only by the types, no second specimens having been procured. The new species I propose to call *Eucephala subcærulea*.

Upper part of head and back dark dull green, rest of back and upper tail-coverts dark green, with a rufous tinge dispersed all over these parts; throat, breast, and abdomen beautiful metallic cærulean blue; flanks shining grass-green. Lower part of abdomen covered by fluffy white feathers. Under tail-coverts metallic green. Wings purple. Tail bluish black. Maxilla black; mandible yellow (in life possibly red) for its entire length, save the tip, which is black. Feet brownish black. Thighs buffy white.